

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-16 are subject to a restriction and/or election requirement. The Examiner has required restriction between the following inventions in the above-identified application:

Group I: Claims 1-5 and 15-16, as specifically drawn to the special technical feature of a method for identifying a substance capable of disrupting microtubule organizing centre (MTOC) integrity and a process of preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more said substance.

Group II: Claim 6, as specifically drawn to the special technical feature of administering a substance, which has been determined to disrupt MTOC integrity, to a cell and determining whether the substance inhibits mitosis in the cell.

Group III: Claims 7-8 and 14, as specifically drawn to the special technical feature of a substance capable of binding to an ASP polypeptide for the use in a method of disrupting MTOC integrity.

Group IV: Claim 9, as specifically drawn to the special technical feature of an antibody which binds to an ASP polypeptide.

Group V: Claim 10, as specifically drawn to the special technical feature of a polypeptide fragment of an ASP polypeptide which is not capable of restoring microtubule nucleation centre organizing activity to an ASP-depleted extract.

Group VI: Claims 11-12, as specifically drawn to the special technical feature of a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide for use in disrupting MTOC integrity.

Group VII: Claim 13, as specifically drawn to the special technical feature of the use of an ASP polypeptide in an assay for identifying a substance capable of disrupting MTOC integrity.

In response to the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed on July 28, 2004, Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, to prosecute the claims of Group I (Claims 1-5 and 15-16, drawn to a method for identifying a substance capable of disrupting microtubule organizing centre (MTOC) integrity and a process of preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more said substance). Applicant's election of the foregoing subject matter is without prejudice to Applicant's rights to pursue non-elected subject matter in other applications.

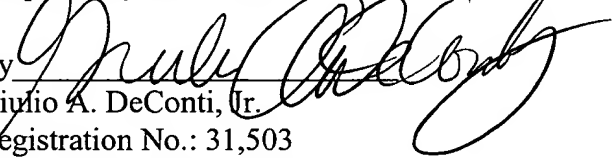
In accordance with the election of claims 1-5 and 15-16, claims 15-16 have been amended to correct dependencies. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

SUMMARY

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' Attorney at (617) 227-7400.

Dated: August 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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